

Re Box No. V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statements**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: EP-A-1 267 557 (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 18 December 2002 (2002-12-18)
- D2: US-B-6 389 2781 (SINGH MONA) 14 May 2002 (2202-05-14)
- D3: EP-A-1 087 599 (LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC) 28 March 2001 (2001-03-28)
- D4: EP-A-1 207 675 (NTT DOCOMO INC) 22 May 2002 (2002-05-22)

2. The present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 11 does not relate to an inventive step within the meaning of Article 33(3) PCT.

2.1 Document D1 is regarded as the closest prior art to the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the references in brackets refer to this document):

Method for forwarding a call in which a first call number, which is entered on a first telecommunications terminal and is assigned to a second terminal, is used to establish a connection to the second terminal and the call remains unanswered at the second terminal (column 12, lines 26-37), with the following steps: the transmission of an identification request message containing the first number to an automatic telecommunications service is triggered (column 12, lines 37-41; column 12, line 47 – column 13, line 2 and column 13, lines 8-12), the telecommunications service then determines, by means of an electronically stored assignment specification, from an electronic directory containing the first call number and a plurality of other call numbers assigned to other terminals, a second number of a third terminal (column 13, lines 12-38), and the second number is used to establish a connection between the first and third terminal (column 15, lines 27-35).

The subject matter of claim 1 hence differs from the known call forwarding method in that the transmission of the identification request is triggered **by the first terminal**.

In contrast, Document D1 describes scenarios in which the control of the call forwarding method takes place either in an exchange alone (column 12, lines 47-49 and column 15, lines 36-42) or with the involvement of a service control point of an intelligent network (column 12, lines 49-56). Thus it is obvious that the steps required to perform the service can be distributed across different network components. For the person skilled in the art it would hence be an obvious action, starting from a method in accordance with Document D1, to alter the distribution of functions so that the transmission of the identification request is triggered by the first terminal, without thereby performing an inventive step.

The method proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot therefore be regarded as inventive (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 2.2 The same reasoning applies accordingly for independent claim 11, taking into account that Document D1 also discloses a system corresponding to the method (Fig. 1 and 2).

The subject matter of claim 11 hence likewise does not relate to an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

- 2.3 The objection that claims 1 and 11 do not relate to an inventive step can alternatively also be based on Documents D2-D4. See in this connection the passages specified in the search report.

3. The dependent claims 2-10 and 12-15 contain no features which fulfill the requirements of the PCT in relation to novelty or inventive step in combination with the features of any claims to which it relates. On the basis of the Document D1 cited above, as well as of the prior art generally known to the person skilled in the art, this is substantiated for the individual dependent claims as follows:

Claim 2: Document D1 discloses a controller for the method in response to user inputs at the terminal (column 14, lines 28-34).

Claim 3-5: The assignment of attributes to the call numbers and an assignment specification which takes these attributes into account when selecting alternative call numbers is known from Document D1 (column 2, lines 35-50 and column 13, lines 16-38).

Claim 6: Document D1 discloses an automatic call setup for the purpose of forwarding calls (column 14, lines 49-54).

Claim 7: A transmission of identification results to the terminal and the display or the voice output of these results is known from Document D1 (column 10, lines 46-52).

Claim 8: Document D1 discloses a controller for the connection setup for the purpose of forwarding calls on the basis of a user input (column 14, lines 28-49).

Claim 9: Such implementations of the service are known from Document D1 (Fig. 1 and 2).

Claim 10: An implementation of the service and/or of the directory on a terminal is an action obvious for the person skilled in the art and is disclosed, for example, in Document D2 (claims 25, 26 and 27).

Claim 12: An assignment of the query unit to the exchange is known from Document D1 (column 12, lines 47-56).

Claim 13: Document D1 discloses the connection setup for the purpose of forwarding in response to the receipt of the corresponding call number (column 14, line 28 to column 15, line 2).

Claim 14: See corresponding reasoning for claim 6.

Claim 15: Different forms of user input are known from Document D1 (column 10, lines 46-56).